

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) A spinal stabilization system, comprising:
a stabilization device positionable along a spinal column, said stabilization device including at least one auxiliary element mounted thereto, said at least one auxiliary element including a cannulation extending at least partially therethrough; and
a holding element including a distal portion and a proximal portion, said distal portion positionable through said cannulation to engage the spinal column to maintain a positioning of said stabilization device along the spinal column and said proximal portion of said holding element engages said auxiliary element wherein said holding element is operable to rotate said auxiliary element relative to said stabilization device with said distal portion of said holding element engaged to the spinal column.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said stabilization device comprises an elongated plate including a number of bone anchor openings extending therethrough.
3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein said auxiliary element includes a retaining device positionable relative to said elongated plate to at least partially overlap at least one of said bone anchor openings.
4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein said retaining device includes a fastener and said cannulation extends along a central axis of said fastener.
5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein said retaining device includes a retaining member including a central aperture for receiving said fastener.
6. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein said elongated plate includes an aperture extending therethrough and said fastener is engageable with said aperture.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein:
said cannulation extends completely through said auxiliary element; and
said distal portion of said holding element extends through said auxiliary element and is engageable with a structure of the spinal column when said stabilization device is positioned along the spinal column.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said auxiliary element is movable relative to said stabilization device.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said holding element engages said auxiliary element and is movable to manipulate said auxiliary device to a desired position relative to said stabilization device.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said holding element includes an intermediate portion between said distal and proximal portions, said intermediate portion including a distally oriented engagement surface for engaging said auxiliary element.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said proximal portion of said holding element includes a first driving tool engaging portion proximally adjacent said intermediate portion and a second driving tool engaging portion spaced from said first driving tool engaging portion and adjacent a proximal end of said proximal portion.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein said second driving tool engaging portion includes a recess in an outer surface of shaft comprising said proximal portion.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said distal portion of said holding element includes a shaft and a penetrating element at a distal end of said shaft.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein said shaft is unthreaded.
15. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a device positionable between vertebrae of a spinal column and wherein said stabilization device is positionable along the vertebrae.
16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein:
said cannulation extends completely through said auxiliary element; and
said distal portion of said holding element extends through said auxiliary element and is engageable with said device when said stabilization device is positioned along the spinal column.
17. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein said device is a corpectomy implant and said stabilization device is an elongated plate.
18. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an instrument engageable to said proximal portion of said holding element.
19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said proximal portion of said holding element includes a first instrument engaging portion adapted to deliver a rotational force from said instrument to said holding element and a second instrument engaging portion to simultaneously axially secure said instrument to said holding element.
20. (Original) A spinal stabilization system, comprising:
a stabilization device positionable along a spinal column and including an auxiliary element associated therewith and movable relative thereto, said auxiliary element including a cannulation extending at least partially therethrough; and
a holding element including a distal portion positionable in said cannulation of said auxiliary element, a proximal portion extending proximally from said distal portion, and an intermediate portion therebetween, wherein said intermediate portion includes a distally oriented engagement

surface adapted to engage said auxiliary element, said holding element movable to position said auxiliary element in a desired position relative to said stabilization device.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said stabilization device comprises an elongated plate including a number of bone anchor openings extending therethrough.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein said auxiliary element includes a retaining device positionable relative to said elongated plate to at least partially overlap at least one of said bone anchor openings.

23. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said proximal portion of said holding element includes a first driving tool engaging portion proximally adjacent said intermediate portion and a second driving tool engaging portion spaced from said first driving tool engaging portion and adjacent a proximal end of said proximal portion.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein said second driving tool engaging portion includes a recess in an outer surface of a shaft comprising said proximal portion.

25. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said cannulation extends completely through said auxiliary element and said distal portion of said holding element includes a shaft extendable through said cannulation and a penetrating element at a distal end of said shaft for engagement with the spinal column.

26. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said proximal portion of said holding element includes a first instrument engaging portion adapted to deliver a rotational force from an instrument to said holding element and a second instrument engaging portion adapted to axially secure the instrument to said holding element.

27. (Previously presented) A device for temporarily securing a spinal stabilization system to a spinal column, comprising:

a holding element including a distal portion positionable in a cannulation of the stabilization system, a proximal portion extending proximally from said distal portion, and an intermediate portion therebetween, wherein said proximal portion of said holding element includes a first instrument engaging portion adapted to receive a rotational force delivered to said holding element and a second instrument engaging portion spaced from said first instrument engaging portion adapted to receive an axial force delivered to said holding element.

28. (Original) The device of claim 27, wherein said intermediate portion includes a distally oriented engagement surface adapted to engage an auxiliary element of the stabilization system and deliver a manipulation force thereto.

29. (Original) The device of claim 27, wherein said distal portion of said holding element includes a shaft and a penetrating element at a distal end of said shaft.

30. (Previously presented) The device of claim 27, wherein said proximal portion includes a shaft and said first instrument engaging portion is positioned adjacent said intermediate portion at a distal end of said shaft and said second instrument engaging portion is positioned adjacent a proximal end of said shaft.

31. (Original) The device of claim 30, wherein said first instrument engaging portion includes a head shaped to receive a tool thereover and said second instrument engaging portion includes a recess about said shaft.

Claims 32-69 (Cancelled)